

## Experimental Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

23 March 2004

National Ocean Service/NCCOS and CSC

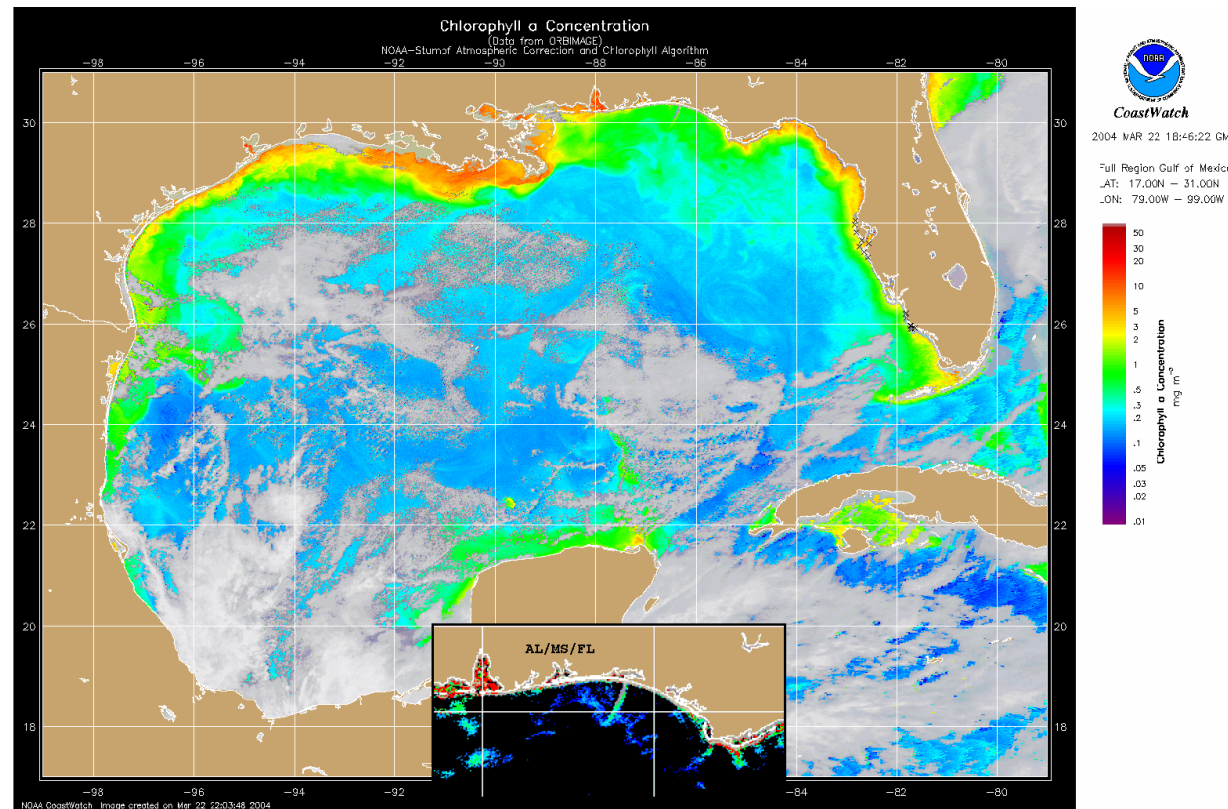
NESDIS/CoastWatch and NDBC

Last bulletin: March 18, 2004

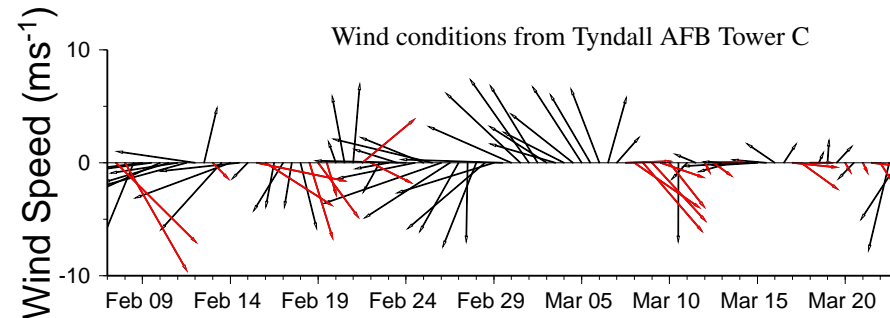
### Analysis

Chlorophyll levels have increased since March 17 (above 5 ug/L) from south of Apalachicola Bay (85dW 29d24"N) to Cape San Blas and extending to Panama City (85d39"W 29d5"N). Northeasterly winds on Sunday (March 21) caused an intensification of the coastal bloom. In addition to dolphin deaths, the state reports a limited number of dead fish and horseshoe crabs. A total of 85 dead dolphins have been collected at this time. *Karenia brevis* has not been observed as of March 19. Currently, the cause of the dolphin mortalities is unknown and is under investigation. In the event that this is *K. brevis*, easterly winds through Friday may intensify the bloom along the coast.

-Tomlinson



Chlorophyll concentration (above) and possible HAB areas shown in red (inset). Cell concentration sampling data from March 18, 2004 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from measurements made on NOAA buoys. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast.

Strong northeasterly winds occurred on March 21 and 22. Easterly winds are predicted through Friday.

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